

ROCKLAND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
ROCKLAND TOWN HALL  
ROCKLAND, MA 02370

February 24, 2010

In attendance at the February 24, 2010 Finance Committee meeting were Bill Allen, John Ellard, Rich Penney, Bob MacDonald, Joe Gambon, Dolores Baronas, Ian Curran, Caryn Stevens, Julie Shaffer and Paula Ferguson. Absent was Rachel Gear.

The meeting was brought to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman John Ellard.

A motion was made by Julie Shaffer and seconded by Rich Penney to accept the minutes from the January 13, 2010 meeting. A unanimous vote was taken.

The Town Administrator presented his budgets:

**Board of Selectmen's** budget contains an additional line item for landfill maintenance. Also he mentioned that his salary line item may increase as he is looking for a raise to make his salary comparable to surrounding towns.

**Legal Services** are pretty much in line and there may be a seminar on conflict of interest laws, meeting minutes, etc put on by Attorney John Clifford and Bob Galvin.

**Town Hall Budget:** Under utilities/maint/supplies, this line item contains telephone, WB Mason, lock smith, etc. Under Property maintenance is glass, mechanical. Key Span will be doing an energy audit to suggest ways to save money.

**Street Lighting:** This budget is \$89,212.00, the cost of electricity for the street lights.

**Liability Insurance:** Allan will be meeting with them on Tuesday. We currently have a deductible with them.

Also, it was brought up about Studley Pond Dam which needs repairs. There is a question of ownership because it runs under a state highway.

**Health Insurance:** Allan is hoping it will be less.

**Youth Commission:** We met with Karen Guerette. The Youth Commission is currently located in the Community Center. They are open six days a week. Their budget last year was \$40,000 with the rest coming out of their revolving fund which had money from their programs. They rent the gym to generate more revenue. They offer affordable programs for the youth and will accept children outside of Rockland.

**OTHER BUSINESS:** Deputy Police Chief Gerry Eramo put in a request from the reserve fund for \$9900 to fund maintenance to their heating/air conditioning system. The building is ten years old. Five fans on the roof were not working due to worn out belts. They got a new thermostat which was unable to be changed without calling a technician, thus incurring additional costs. He presented one estimate from Mercury Mechanical Services for complete repairs. The Board was concerned about only having one estimate and also for using 1/3 of the reserve fund for maintenance. The Finance Committee requested Deputy Chief Eramo to come back with more estimates. No one was in dispute that the work had to be done. It was also suggested to take it out of sundries or holiday pay as they had only used up 43% of holiday pay as of this date. Ian Curran made a motion to table this until additional estimates are received, seconded by Bill Allen, a unanimous vote was taken.

Deputy Chief Eramo also prepared a cost comparison of leasing versus buying of police cruisers. With his presentation, the Police Department could see a savings of \$63,000 over the course of four years through leasing. It is definitely something worth looking into.

All Ethics Certificates have been passed in!

The Energy Committee attended the meeting with a request for a budget of \$1500 to cover costs of the processing of grant applications, purchasing of bulbs, display items, postage, etc. Paula will contact Eric about how to proceed with this request. The Energy Committee has just received a grant for \$150,000 for solar panels for Esten School. They have received \$3000 for energy audits, \$4000 for wind sight engineering, \$182,000 for solar panels for the high school. The amount of money this committee has brought in to the town in addition to making it more energy efficient is staggering. They are currently looking at working with turbines. Discussion was also mentioned to hire grant writers.

The March meetings were set for March 10, March 24 and March 31 beginning at 6:30 in the lower conference room.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Ferguson  
Secretary  
Rockland Finance Committee